GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:125
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015
Elephant Mortality
Mahendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of elephant mortality reported from various parts of the country, particularly at railway tracks;
(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Railway authorities as well as the State Governments so as to protect elephants and if so; the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *125 REGARDING 'ELEPHANT MORTALITY' DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.12.2015

(a) to (b) Yes Sir. State-wise details of unnatural elephant deaths, including due to train accidents, for last five years are at Annexure I.

(c) The Government has taken the following measures, in consultation with Ministry of Railways and State Forest Departments, to prevent accidental deaths of elephants:

(i) A general advisory was issued jointly to all the railway zones and relevant states suggesting measures to prevent collision of trains with wild elephants. Some of the important recommendations are given below:
(a) Clearance of vegetation on the sides of railway tracks.
(b) Underpasses/overpasses/girder bridges across vulnerable stretches of railway tracks to allow safe passage elephants.
(c) Signage boards to pre-warn the train drivers at selected points.
(d) Sensitization programmes for Train Drivers/Guards/Station Masters.
(e) Engagement of elephant trackers and communication with Station Masters.
(f) To keep Railway tracks free from food wastes that attracts elephants.

(ii) A permanent coordination committee has been constituted jointly by the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Environment and Forests to share information and monitor the implementation of the advisory.
(iii) In order to develop specific strategies and Standard Operating Procedures and for better coordination committees have been constituted between Zonal Railway Offices and State Forest Departments.
(iv) Ministry of Railways has also been requested to regulate the speed of trains in identified vulnerable sections between sunset and sunrise.
(v) The coordination between local railway authorities and forest authorities at Central and State/Zonal levels have been effective. As a result of this elephant mortality due to train accidents has reduced to 6 in the year 2014-15 as against 20 in 2010-11.

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